

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /077 W
-----150431Z 084603 /72

R 141705Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4382
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSELDORF
AMCONSL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW
SUBJECT: NATIONAL SPD MANAGER DENIES BONN ATTACKS ON
GOVERNING MAYOR

1. SUMMARY: AN APPARENT OFF-HAND REMARK IN A T.V.
TALK SHOW APRIL 10 BY HANS-JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI THAT
HE WOULD NOT EVADE HIS DUTY IF ASKED TO TAKE THE GOV-
ERNING MAYOR'S POSITION IN BERLIN HAS REKINDLED SPECULA-
TION THAT SCHUETZ MAY SOON BE LEAVING THE BERLIN
POLITICAL SCENE. WISCHNEWSKI QUICKLY ISSUED A "NON-
DENIAL DENIAL" THAT HE WAS SEEKING THE OFFICE, SCHUETZ
AGAIN FIRMLY MAINTAINED HE INTENDED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE,
AND SPD BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR, SPEAKING AT A PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 13 FLATLY DENIED THERE WAS ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT
A SCHUETZ SUCCESSOR. THESE STATEMENTS DAMPENDED DOWN
THE IMMEDIATE SPECULATION ABOUT SCHUETZ' FUTURE,
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BUT THE UNDERCURRENT OF DOUBT ABOUT
HIS FUTURE CONTINUES TO BE STRONG. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT SPECULATION THAT BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR
KLAUS SCHUETZ WAS ABOUT TO BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE
FROM OUTSIDE BERLIN WAS REVIVED APRIL 10 WHEN FEDERAL
MINISTER HANS-JERGEN WISCHNEWSKI COMMENTED DURING

A COLOGNE TELEVISION TALK SHOW THAT HE WOULD "NEVER EVADE THE DUTY" OF BECOMING GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN IF HE WERE ASKED TO TAKE ON THE POST. WISCHNEWSKI, WHO WAS EDUCATED IN BERLIN, SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED IN A TELEGRAM TO SCHUETZ THAT HE HAD INTENDED HIS REMARK TO SHOW HIS "CONTINUING ATTACHMENT TO BERLIN." IN ADDITION WISCHNEWSKI ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT CAMPAIGNING TO BECOME THE GOVERNING MAYOR. SCHUETZ CALLED THE RENEWED SPECULATION ABOUT HIS POSITION "NONSENSE" AND SENAT SPOKESMAN GUENTHER STURVE PREDICTED THAT SCHUETZ WOULD STILL BE GOVERNING MAYOR NEXT YEAR, "PROVIDED HE DID NOT BECOME SICK OR MEET WITH AN UNFORESEEN ACCIDENT."

3. THREE DAYS AFTER THE WISCHNEWSKI REMARKS NATIONAL SPD MANAGER EGON BAHR ADMITTED FOLLOWING AN SPD MEETING IN BERLIN THAT "CERTAIN PEOPLE" WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THE SPECULATION ABOUT SCHUETZ' FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME HE FLATLY DENIED THERE HAD BEEN ANY ATTACKS FROM BONN ON SCHUETZ. HE ALSO CLAIMED QUESTION OF A SUCCESSOR FOR SCHUETZ WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN HIS TALKS WITH THE BERLIN SPD AND THAT HE HAD "HEARD NOTHING DIFFERENT" THAN THAT SCHUETZ WILL BE THE SPD'S TOP CANDIDATE IN THE 1979 ELECTIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE TABLOID BILDZEITUNG, SCHUETZ DID NOT ATTEND BAHR'S APRIL 13 MEETING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADING BERLIN SPD FUNCTIONARIES, BUT REGRETTED WITHOUT GIVING ANY REASON, AND, REPORTEDLY, WITHOUT HAVING ANY CONFLICTING ENGAGEMENTS. THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FURTHER SPECULATION ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE BERLIN AND BONN SPDS. THE CONTINUING CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING SCHUETZ IS APPARENTLY ALSO BEGINNING TO ALARM THE COALITION PARTNER FDP. FDP CHAIRMAN AND MAYOR WOLFGANG LUEDER HAS APPEALED TO THE SPD TO STOP ITS DISPUTES OVER SCHUETZ, AND TO "PROVIDE CLARITY" ABOUT THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S POSITION AT LEAST FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

5. ACCORDING TO A MISSION SOURCE, INSIDE THE SENAT BAHR'S CLAIM TO THE PRESS THAT THE SUBJECT OF A SCHUETZ SUCCESSOR DID NOT COME UP AT THE APRIL 13 SPD LEADERSHIP MEETING COULD AT BEST BE DESCRIBED (POLITELY) AS MENDACITY. APPARENTLY IT WOULD BE CLOSER TO THE

TRUTH TO SAY THAT THE BERLIN LEADERSHIP (SANS SCHUETZ)
ARRIVED AT NO CONCLUSION CONCERNING A POSSIBLE
SUCCESSOR.

6. IT APPEARS, THEREFORE THAT THE STALEMATE
WILL CONTINUE AT LEAST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
SCHUETZ HAS MADE IT CLEAR PUBLICLY THAT HE DOES NOT
INTEND TO STEP DOWN, AND DESPITE CONTINUING INTERNAL
DIFFERENCES THE TOP CONTENDERS FOR SCHUETZ' POSITION
HERE IN BERLIN HAVE ONCE AGAIN SET ASIDE THEIR
DIFFERENCES AND RALLIED AROUND THE GOVERNING MAYOR
TO PROTECT HIM AND THEMSELVES AGAINST A CHALLENGE TO THEIR
LEADERSHIP BY AN OUTSIDER. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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